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Oxford Democrat.

Volume 7.

Paris, Maine, Tuesday, February 4, 1840.

Number 25.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

From Burton's Magazine, for January, 1840.

The Last Shilling.

BY J. E. DOW, WASHINGTON D. C.

It was at the commencement of a stormy evening in the rainy season, when a young man dressed in a soiled and tattered suit of clothes which, like their wearer, had seen better days, rushed into the bar room of one of the low hells of Lisbon, in a state of intoxication, and throwing himself upon one of the rude settees, ordered a bottle of eau de vie to be placed before him. The assiduous attentions of the garcon soon supplied the wants of the impatient stranger, and drawing together the curtains of the alcove, he left him to attend to numerous calls from people of almost every nation under heaven.

The young man sat for some time with his head leaning on his hand, and nothing gave evidence of his existence but the escapement of a sigh, so deep and strong that, like the outbreaking of the smothered fire of a volcano, it seemed to burst around the object from whence it proceeded. At length he drew from his pocket his purse, and after duly examining its lean and poverty-stricken appearance, turned out upon the marble table a solitary shilling. It was his all,—he had arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of his riches, and poverty seemed with long and withered limbs to stalk before him. It was the turning point in the history of Henry Staunton: birth, friends, reputation—aye, even the decency of a rag wound were about to be surrendered up to the power of intemperance and crime. He gazed about him with the look of madness; he had not calculated upon poverty—poverty such as this—when the dice and the gold rang upon the gaming table—when the song of the syren swelled high above the festive board, and the deluded votaries of Bacchus found a living pain in the draughts of jolly Claret.

He had calculated the cost of the degradation and debasement of a noble soul; but poverty he had not thought of, that cruel hag, that worse than the damning nightmare, sitting heavily upon the breast, though lightly upon the stomach of the poor unfortunate, and presses him down to a level with the ignoble and the vile. In our own happy country, we hardly ever see or feel poverty; but in the old kingdoms of Europe, where the unfortunate are numberless, and where the tendency of their institutions is to make the poor poorer, and the rich richer—poverty, such as a man would gladly exchange for death, stalks about the streets in slow and cadaverous form, scowling like the famishing wolf for victims, and clutching her skinny fingers at the throats of rosy cheeked children, and well fed friars.

Henry Staunton reflected,—it was the first time that he had cast a thought upon his wretched condition for months. He looked at his ragged clothes, and shuddered; a little mirror before him showed him his finely shaped countenance, bloated and red with unnatural excitement; a deep gash, half healed, marked the beauty of his commanding forehead, and his thick, glossy, raven locks were matted with lint and dust. His once smart beaver was knocked into a thousand angles, and his unwashed shirt collar hung over an apology for a black silk neck handkerchief, like a dirty jib over the bowsprit of a Newcastle collier. His whole dress would have brought him a handsome sum, had there then been in the neighborhood some Billy Barlow, devoid of the necessary costume in his character.

The brandy remained untouched,—the finer feelings of human nature began, like oil poured out upon the stormy ocean, to calm the swelling and blackened surges of vice; and the tears that had long since been dried up, like a summer brooklet, suddenly accumulated in their parched channels. He drew a white handkerchief from his breast, and grasping it convulsively in his hand, gazed upon the name for a moment, then, dashing his head upon the table, burst into a flood of tears. His sobs soon attracted the attention of the company in the next alcove, and the keeper of the hell fearing that his foreign customer might be about to commit suicide in his premises, and thus lay upon him the onus of his burial, entered the recess, and shaking the unhappy youth by the collar, bade him seek lodging elsewhere. This was enough! Henry Staunton arose a new, a redeemed man. The hour of degradation had passed away, and with a smile upon his face, which, like the rainbow of God upon the retiring shadows of the deluge, gave evidence of future calmness, he replaced his memorial of evil love, and lifting from the table his solitary shilling, bade the keeper of the hell observe that his brandy remained untouched. He then departed, and as he stepped out upon the Praza del Rocio, the night wind howled around the rocks of Cintra, and the valley of the Tagus gave back its sounds with a thousand echoes.

Along the morena of Lisbon, are numerous stands, where the money-loving boatmen of the Tagus huddle around a few brands, and await the hour when the naval officers from the various squadrons come down to return to their floating lodgings. The moustached sentinel paces along the quay with greater dignity as the middle hour of midnight draws near, and the horse-patrol make their only round when the joyous reeler, with the weather leech of his main-top gallant sail a little lifting, comes swearing down the streets, damning the earthquake for making them so hilly, and the citizens for crowning them with unnecessary filth. As for the earthquake, that could not be helped; but for the nightly showers of unholy water that descend upon the heads of wandering strangers, from eight till twelve P. M., from the numerous front windows of the eight storied houses of every street in Lisbon, nothing can be offered in extenuation.—They are sins that cannot be forgiven by foreigners, and are barely tolerable by those who indulge in them.

It was to one of these fires that Henry Staunton bent his steps, as the heavy tones of the cathedral clock tolled eleven. Soon after his arrival there, the captain of a jackass frigate, who had been dining with his country's consul, came rolling down like a ship in the chops of the channel in a heavy sea, with the wind free, and endeavored to make the boatmen who beset him, understand where he wanted to go; but from a natural thickness of his tongue, and an additional impediment in the shape of *agua vitae*, he endeavored in vain. At length Henry Staunton, who sat shivering under the few embers of the dying watch fire, approached him, and in English asked the stranger where he wished to be taken. 'Taken,' said the son of Neptune, with a heavy lurch, 'why, taken on board, and a head to you,' and he chuckled at his wit like a monk, as if he had put a hot chestnut into a confiding cat's paw.

'But to what ship?' said Staunton. 'What ship?' said the captain,—why, to the Boanerges, captain Spitfire, pierced for thirty-six guns, with a shifting one astern. D—n it, sir, there she is, don't you see the light under the mizzen top? Suppose you go on board with me, youngster, as you seem curious; I always like to meet a countryman in a foreign land, especially after dinner. Come, bear a hand, my boys, and bring up a boat.'

A boat was soon ready, and after numerous efforts, the captain compromised the matter with his legs by rolling in on a couple of oars. Once on board, by force of habit, he rolled into the stern sheets in an upright position, and gave the order,—'Shove off.'

The boatmen, however, refusing to move until they were paid, captain Spitfire seemed to ignore this insult to his dignity, and was about to roll out upon the quay in the same manner that he rolled in, when Staunton, recollecting his shilling, pulled it out, and showing it to the boatmen, said, 'If this will compensate you for your trouble, it is at your service.' 'Thank you, my master, it is small, but it will do,' and hailing his companion, who immediately joined him, the boat shoved off from the quay, and soon lay alongside of the frigate Boanerges, one of H. B. M.'s squadron in the Tagus. The worthy representative of his country's honor, was soon housed in his state room, and Henry Staunton, having been invited below by the master-at-arms, located himself on a grating between the two forward guns on the starboard side of the gun deck, and was soon lost in a sleep far more sweet than that which had blessed his eyelids since his departure from his native home, to leave the ways of damning vice in a guilty land.

'Seven bells,' cried the master-at-arms of the Boanerges, as he came up the forward hatchway. 'Turn out, turn out, you lazy lubbers,' and administering a few gentle hints with his rattle, soon had the crew upon their feet busily lashing up their hammocks.

Henry Staunton heard nothing of this din until a gallon of golden water came plash in his face from the bucket of one of the after guards, who was busily employed in washing down the deck. He started to his feet, and with good humor acknowledged the fitness of the obligation, and then gazed about him. It was morning, and a golden one, too,—the shores of Alentejo and Lisbon were bathed with the gaudy coloring of nature,—the land breeze came off from the orange groves and purple hills,—the cry of the smuggler was heard as his train of asses came down the steep bank of the shore, while the cheerful 'yo! heave oh!' of the logger's crew, as they took on board the wine of Xeres and Oporto, awoke the echoes of the winding river's shores.

It was a long time before he could call to mind the occurrences of the previous night; and while he stood looking anxiously out of the bridge port, his forlorn condition attracted the sympathy of the British tars around him, who kindly gave him an invitation to their mess, and bade him brush up for his interview with 'Old Smoke Pipes,' the nick name given to their commander.

Henry Staunton soon cleared himself from all remains of his old habits,—his tattered suit went down on the bosom of the golden river, and his old shoes served to toll out two or three unwelcome sharks who had entered the bay for the purpose of overhauling the shoals of marrow bones that had been thrown overboard until they had nearly overturned the admiral. After undergoing the martyrdom of being shaved by the barber of the ship, Staunton dressed himself in a neat suit of sailors' clothing; his hair he combed over his wounded forehead, and as he preceded the fore-castle with the quarter master of the watch, awaiting the commands of the honorable

captain Spitfire, he seemed like one of the fancy men of the Boanerges just returned from a liberty week on shore.

Just before the top-gallant yards were crossed, captain Spitfire made his appearance in a neat dress, and, with a seaman-like alacrity, endeavored to make up for his evening's debauch by his strict search after the faults of others. After inspecting the ship throughout, and finding everything as usual in proper order, he sent for the master-at-arms, and bade him bring into the cabin in his scrub acquaintance of the previous evening.

Henry Staunton was soon in the presence of the commander, who bade the master-at-arms retire, and then turning to him, said in a gruff tone, 'Youngster, tell me your history.'

Staunton detailed the principal events of his life in a spirit of deep contrition, and when he had finished, he leaned his aching head upon his hand, and awaited his fate.

Captain Spitfire looked at the fine form and intelligent face before him for some minutes, and then striking his hand upon the table, said,—'Youngster, I'll make a man of you; for he whom the land casts off, the sea must swallow.'

You have improved visibly in your outwits since last night, see that you keep clean here, striking his hand upon his breast; 'dirt and discipline never sail in company,—and he that keeps his copper foul in my ship, must be worthy of the orderly entered.' 'Tell Mr. Slops, the purser, to bring up the rating list,—another son of thunder is waiting to be christened.'

The purser had expected a morning call from the commander, and soon entered the cabin of the Boanerges, with his shipping articles in his hand; and in a few minutes Henry Staunton was rated a midshipman in the gallant navy of Britain.

'Here, sir,' said the captain, handing Staunton a doubleloon, 'here is sufficient to buy you a ticket and dirk,—act your part well, and from the glance of your top-lights, I feel confident that you will do his majesty some service. Recollect, there is your shilling with interest,—study the necessary part of your profession, and let the fan-cy part go to the devil, to whom it belongs. About white gloves and cologne water—speak as me old Cusked Pipes on duty. Be off—I won't be thanked. I have read you like a book. Go to the first lieutenant and study the ropes, and be careful how you let Nip Cheese, the purser, finger your doubleloon.'

Thus saying, the excellent hearted captain bowed the newly dubbed midshipman of the Boanerges to the door of the cabin, and seeing the master's mate of the watch at the gateway, called out, 'Mr. Strother, introduce Mr. Staunton to the young gentlemen below, and be careful how you cut up any monkey shines with him,—there's the mast head! You understand me, sir! Good morning, Mr. Staunton.'

A pendant was now seen flying from the admiral's signal halliards, and then was seen the Boanerges's number, and a signal below. 'What is it?' cried a dozen voices. 'Boanerges under way to get—follow the admiral with or without signals,' said the signal officer, as he entered the cabin.

'Answer the signal, sir,' said captain Spitfire. 'Mr. Catharpin, all hands up anchor.' 'Then the heavy roll of the admiral's signal gun came rolling over the deep, and the 'blue per' unrolled itself to the breeze, and floated gaily at his fore.

Now all was bustle and apparent confusion, and (like all other ships of war that had been long anchored,) the Boanerges got under way in a lubberly manner, and as the shades of evening fell upon the silent waters, took her departure from the rock of Lisbon.

Young Staunton was now in a new element,—the dark hour had passed away, and the poor vagabond, who so lately would have sold his existence for rum, became a Jenny Reeler, and was considered, ere he had been a week on board, the crack officer of the cock-pit.

Onward the three-decker rolled her course, and swiftly the gallant frigate followed in her wake. On the third day out a signal from the admiral denoted a sail on the starboard bow, and soon another signal bade the Boanerges crowd all sail in chase. Now was captain Spitfire's time to show his intrinsic value—his qualities became brighter, like those of this diamond beneath the hand of the polisher, and the gallant tar, ere the enemy's courses were in sight, was ready for a desperate battle on the deep. His batteries were clear, his guns double-shotted,—cullasses, pistols and boarding pikes were distributed by no nigger's hand and the powder boys stood ready behind each gun with spare cartridges in their leather passing boxes. Round shot and were in the shot racks, and the men were at quarters with their trousers rolled up to their knees, their jackets off, and their necks bare; some had handkerchiefs about their waists, and some had them twisted, *a la Turque*, around their heads; looking as they stood in clusters around each iron mouthpiece, like a component part of the cannon itself. The decks were sanded to prevent them from becoming slippery with blood. The marines and top-men were at their stations, and the cock-eyed marine officer, with a tremendous muckel-whanger, was marching up and down the larboard waist, now casting one eye in the fore-top, while the other was resting on the mizzen; and now state down to rest, probably to sigh over the melancholy reflections which the hour excited within his breast.

The captain was standing on the horse block, peeping through a mighty spy-glass, while the officer of the deck, assisted by two quartermasters

and a few youngsters, was endeavoring to make out the craft from the opposite side of the ship. At length, as the Boanerges drew nearer, the frigate laid her maintop-sail to the mast, and yawling gracefully, showed the lilies of the Bourbon floating at her ensign peak.

'French, by—,' exclaimed captain Spitfire, to Mr. Catharpin, the first lieutenant. 'Stand by the bow gun, sir. All ready?' 'Aye, aye, sir,' replied the commander of the division.

'Then let the Mounseers hear your thunder—fire!' 'Bang,' roared the bow chaser, and, from a wreath of woolly smoke, the thirty-two pound shot sped on its mission of destruction; it took the Frenchman amidships, and slanted across his gun-deck; the splinters flew about merrily. Counting the Boanerges, and L'Agile, for such was the weather frigate, filled away and endeavored to get the frog-eater, and to sing him half a ton of cold iron in quick succession, the Boanerges bore down to board.

'First division of boarders away,' thundered the captain, and from the different quarters to twinkling of an eye. The Boanerges had now run foul of L'Agile's stern, and making the frigate fast with his own hands, captain Spitfire, followed by young Staunton and a hundred men, gained the Frenchmen's deck. It was a dreadful meeting—the French fought like tigers—the boarders flung themselves upon boarding pikes and cutlasses; battle axes and hand grenades were hurled in every direction—the report of the boarder's pistol was followed by the crash of the next man's skull, as its heavy butt descended upon it. The second division now came to the assistance of the first, headed by the first lieutenant, and they arrived in time to secure the victory. Harry Staunton had just cut the French captain down, that moment a pikeman pinned the gallant reeler before the cutlass of captain Spitfire laid him headless upon the deck.

At this moment the third division of boarders came pouring in, and in five minutes the flag of England floated at her ensign peak. 'The cross is won, as the lilies came down.' For a moment captain Spitfire had missed and trembling against the mizzenmast, sprang and released him, while the mercurial stood in his eye he clasped him in his arms, and said—'Well done, my young recruit; you have nobly earned your swab, and if there is any gratitude in name ere I am three weeks older.'

The surgeon instantly had his patient removed to his berth, and after a careful examination of the gratifying intelligence that his young charge would finally recover, notwithstanding he was severely hurt. The prize was then overhauled, and the damage to both hull and rigging repaired.

In the course of a couple of hours, captain Spitfire, having left the prize in command of lieutenant Catharpin, made the signal for 'crowding on all sail, and the crews, giving three cheers which were re-echoed by the dark hollows of the ocean, L'Agile spread out her white wings, and followed swiftly in the wake of her conqueror.—Night now settled upon the having ocean, and captain Spitfire, seeing no signs of the admiral, shaped his course for England.

Three days after the action, the Boanerges, followed by her prize, passed the Eddystone, and anchored in safety off Plymouth. The captain of the Boanerges reported himself to the port admiral, and then posted up to London, leaving Henry Staunton on the sick list. By return of a post, young Staunton received his commission as a lieutenant in the British navy, with a leave of absence, and a handsome amount of prize money. Thus we leave our hero, to return to an earlier period of his life, to trace out the causes which led to such unforeseen, yet happy effects.

Henry Staunton was the only son of a wealthy merchant of Philadelphia, and having an austere father, and a weak and indulgent mother, he became expert under such circumstances. His him the reproaches and punishments of his father's mother, and in the same ratio, the attentions and gifts of his mother. Thus matters went on until the day of his mother's death. The day was a melancholy one for our hero; he shut himself up in his room, and for days refused to be comforted at length he became more calm, and met his father with sorrow. Mr. Staunton, however, like a true business man, forgot his loss as soon as he usually did the loss of a ship, or the decline of fancy stocks; and after numerous long and exciting conversations with his son, at last decided that he should become a merchant, and directed him to make up his mind to enter the counting house as soon as the fall business should commence. In the meantime, he gave him a check on his banker, with permission to spend the summer months at his country seat, in the interior of Connecticut.

It was a lovely and stately mansion, near one of the pleasantest villages in the blue law state, surrounded by orchards, gardens, and lawns, with a silver stream flowing at the foot of the little eminence upon which it stood. Its white washed out-houses, at a distance, gave it the appearance of a little village, and around it, the magic talismence seldom seen in the interior of the country. Henry Staunton had, by the will of his mother, inherited a handsome little fortune in the

stocks, and here, with sufficient to satisfy his every want amid the rural scenes and quiet retreats of Connecticut, his noble mind began to expand, and gave brighter evidence of a brighter manhood. Besides, he had fallen in love, and that too, by the merest accident. He had met, in his fishing excursions and lonely walks, Emma Lester the daughter of the worthy clergyman of the parish, and being struck with her saint-like beauty and affectionate attention to her aged father had called at the parsonage. After the first difficulty had been surmounted, viz: that of breaking the ice, he became a constant visitor there. Often would these young and ardent beings wander forth by the gentle Willimantic at the rosy hour of day.

'And fondly whisper love.'

Henry Staunton was now a happy man, and if he thought that he must at length leave those fairy scenes and the maiden he adored, to become the drudge of a warehouse, occasionally clouded his brow, the smile of Emma Lester chased it away the phantoms of the night. Matters went on thus until all the village knew that the young couple loved each other, and the old clergyman, at last discovering the same truth, called them before him and blessed them, and the next day was gathered unto his fathers, leaving Emma to the tender mercies of an uncle in New York, who possessed vast wealth, great eccentricity, and as little regard for the feelings of the lovers as old Staunton himself.

Henry Staunton was now eighteen, and love at that age is apt to burn strong and last long.—After seeing the good old man to his long home, he endeavored to cheer up his desponding Emma; but the shock to her feelings was so great, that her uncle determined to remove her to N. Y. at once. A few days, and this determination came upon the ears of Henry Staunton, like a clap of thunder in a clear sky. He had never thought of such a consequence, and although it came from the lips of Emma with a smile of hope that separation would not last, yet his own fears told him that it might be for ever. He then told the gentle Emma of his father's sternness, and the little probability of his ever consenting to a union between them.

'And is this the fact, Henry Staunton?' said the weeping maiden, 'and have you kept such a truth hidden from me so long? Henry, it was not generous, nay, it was unkind in the extreme—but no, I will not believe it; your father will relent, and we shall be so happy in our rural bow.'

At this moment the carriage of Ronald Lester drove up to the door of the parsonage and interrupted the father conversation of the lovers.

'Henry Staunton,' said the old man, after the introduction had been made, 'I have heard of you; you have seduced the affections of this innocent and unsophisticated maiden, when you knew your father would never consent to your union with her. You have acted like a scoundrel, sir; begone, and never let me see your face again.'

Staunton endeavored to expostulate with him, with the tear of sorrow in his eye, and the blush of indignation upon his cheek; and Emma weeping, plead for a moment's hearing; but it was all to no purpose—the old gentleman had made up his mind, and that was sufficient. In a few minutes, Emma's little stock of books and wearing apparel was ready, and her uncle, handing her into the carriage, took his seat beside her, and ordered the coachman to drive off. Henry Staunton stood watching the carriage as it wound around the hill like one awakened from a dream but no token of affection was left for him until the Lesters came to a sudden turn in the road, when a white pocket handkerchief waved along the side of the carriage, and fell upon the ground. Staunton sprang to the spot, and seized the treasure; it was marked with the name and wet with the tears of Emma Lester.

'And am I doomed to disappointment?' said the youth in agony. At that moment a thought flashed upon his mind. 'I will leave the country,' said he, 'and forget that I am Staunton.'

In a few hours he left his father's country seat, and proceeded to New London, where he disposed of his mother's legacy, and took his departure in a merchant vessel, for England.

After a long passage, young Staunton entered the metropolis of England, and meeting with those who, like the sucking fish, live by drawing the vitality from others, he soon lost a portion of his money. He then proceeded to Paris, and what was left by the ancestors of Crookford, was taken by the ancestors of Fruscaft, with the exception a sum sufficient to pay his passage to Lisbon. Upon his arrival in Lisbon, he was disappointed in finding that his father's vessel, which he saw by Lloyd's list was there, had sailed the day previous for Philadelphia. Thus left without money and without friends, his father's consignees refused to believe he was the son of old Staunton, and the bells of Lisbon shook off a customer of such doubtful character. It was at this period that our tale commences.

It was evening, and the shrill whistle of a November's wind awoke the echoes of the silent city of New York, when a young English officer landed at the Battery from a packet that had just arrived from England. Two stout seamen took his baggage upon their shoulders, and followed him up Broadway until he reached a noble mansion, when he bade them halt. He then approached the door and rang the bell, which was immediately answered.

Captain Spitfire became, in time, an
of the red, and died one day at a public

It will be seen by our Congressional action that the federal party, after talking against the vote, are now, in the face of the fact that the vote has been contested, supporting the Committee on Elections. This is in accordance with their whole policy in relation to this matter. Conscious of the grossness of the fraud which they wish to sustain, they do not hazard the indignation of the country by a direct support of it. Their only resort is to stave it off, by endless debates upon the issues.—*Augusta Age.*

Mr. B. said, that on the question of the Eastern Boundary, the conduct of the President had hitherto been so unfortunate as to alienate even his political opponents. It had cost him prudence with firmness, and had received the approbation of almost every reflecting man in the country. The negotiation on this question was, if he might be permitted to express an opinion, now at its very crisis, and the President had deemed it inexpedient to communicate to Congress any of the correspondence which had taken place between the two Governments since the close of the last session. Doubtless he considered that it might have an injurious effect upon the negotiation. Judging by the conduct of Mr. B. surely we ought to have some confidence in the President to wait for a period, and not be calling upon him for communications which may be injurious to the interest, and which, if so, ought to be withheld. The final result of the negotiation will

[illegible]

The bill for the armed occupation and settlement of that part of the Territory of Florida by marauding bands of hostile Indians taken up on its third reading.

After some remarks from Mr Preston in opposition to the bill, the question was taken on the passage of the bill, and resulted, yeas 15. [This was a strict party vote, in exception of the vote of Mr Strange of Mississippi. Mr Williams voted in the majority with the Democrats. Mr Kuggles did not vote.

The Independent Treasury Bill was then taken up on its third reading. Mr Clay of

[illegible]

PORTAL.

From the Portland Transcript.

We have read some little poetry in our day and have been variously affected by it, but our feelings were never so wrought upon as in reading the following lines. We do not believe there is to be found in all the poetry that has been written, either ancient or modern, three stanzas containing more of the "real ore,"—the pure unadulterated essence—than will be found in the article below. This is high praise, but we unhesitatingly submit our opinion to the better judgement of our brethren. Our correspondent has our thanks for this exquisite production.

Stanzas.

When the cold storm howls round your door,
And you, by light of taper,
Sit cozily by the evening fire
Enjoying the last paper—
Just think of him whose work thus helps
To wear away the winter,
And put his query to himself—
Have I paid up the printer?

From east and west—from north to south—
From lands beyond the water,
He daily, brings you news
From every nook and quarter—
No slave on earth toils more than he
Through summer's heat and winter;
How can you for a moment then
Neglect to pay the printer?

Your other bills you promptly pay,
Wherever you do owe, sir,
The butcher for his meat is paid,
For "sundries," is the grocer;
The tailor and the shoemaker,
The hatter and the vintner,
All get their pay—then why neglect
To settle with the printer?

From a late work called "Mens and Ends."

GOSSIPING.

BY MISS SEDGWICK.

The most prevailing fault of conversation in our country, and, I believe, in all social communities, is *Gossiping*. As weeds most infest the richest soils, so gossiping most abounds amidst the social virtues in small towns, where there is the most extended mutual acquaintance, where persons live in the closest relations, resembling a large family circle. To disturb the sweet uses of these little communities by gossiping, is surely to forfeit the benefit of one of the kindest arrangements of Providence.

In great and busy cities, where people live in total ignorance of their neighbors, where they cannot know how they live, and hardly know when they die, there is no neighborhood, and there is no gossiping. But need there be this poisonous weed among the flowers—this blight upon the fruit, my young friends?

You may understand better precisely what comes under the head of gossiping, if I give you some examples of it.

In a certain small thickly-settled town there lives a family, consisting of a man, his wife, and his wife's sister. He has a little shop, it may be a jeweller's, saddler's, shoemaker's, or what we call a store—no matter which, since he earns enough to live most comfortably, with the help of his wife and sister, who are noted for their industry and economy. One would think they had nothing to do but enjoy their own comforts, and aid and pity those less favored than themselves. But, instead of this, they volunteer to supervise all the sins, follies, and shortcomings of their neighbors. The husband is not a silent partner. He does his full share of the low work of this gossiping trio. Go to see them when you will, you may hear the last news of every family within half a mile. For example, as follows:—

"Mr. — gave 150 dollars for his new wagon, and he had no need of a new one; the old one has not run more than two years."

"Mrs. — has got a new hired help; but she won't stay long; it's come and go there."

"Mrs. — had another new gown at meeting yesterday which make the fifth in less than a year, and every one of her girls had new ribbons on their bonnets; it is a good thing to have rich friends; but, for my part, I had rather wear my old ribbons."

"There go Sam Bliss's people with a barrel of flour; it was but yesterday she was at the judge's, begging."

None of the widow Day's girls were at meeting; but they can walk out as soon as the sun is down."

This is but a specimen of the talk of these unfortunate people, who seem to have turned their home into a common sewer, through which all the sins and follies of the neighborhood run. Have they minds and hearts? Yes; but their minds have run to waste, and there is some taint, I fear, at their hearts.

The noted gossip, Miss — makes a visit in a town where she has been previously a stranger. She divides her time among several families. She is social, and what we think is mis-called, agreeable; for she is perpetually talking of persons and things. She wins a too easy confidence, and, she returns home with an infinite store of family anecdotes. She knows that Mr. and Mrs. So and So, who are supposed to live happily, are really on bad terms, and that he broke the heart of two other women before he married his wife; she knows the particulars, but she has promised not to tell. She has found out that a certain family, who for ten years have been supposed to live very harmoniously with a step-mother, are really eminently wretched. She has heard that Mr. —, who apparently is in flourishing circumstances, has been on the brink of bankruptcy for the last ten years—&c. &c. Could this woman find nothing in visiting a new scene to excite her mind but such trumpery? We have given you this example to show you that the sin of gossiping pervades some communities. This woman

did not create these stories. She heard them all, the individuals who told them to her little thinking that they in turn became the subjects of similar remarks to the very persons whose affairs they were communicating.

What would we think of persons who went about collecting for exhibition, samples of the warts, wens and cancers with which their fellow beings were afflicted? And yet would not their employment be more honorable, more humane, at least, than this gossip-monger's?

We have heard such talk as follows between ladies, wives and mothers, the wives of educated men, and persons who were called educated women:—

"Have you heard that Emma Ellis is going to Washington?"

"To Washington! how on earth can the Elises afford a winter in Washington?"

"Oh, you know they are not particular about their debts, and they have six girls to dispose of and find rather a dull market here."

"Have you heard the Newtons are going to the country to live?"

"Bless me! no. What's that for?"

"They say to educate their children; but my dress-maker, Sally Smith, who works for Mrs. Newton, says she is worn out with dinner parties. He runs the house down with company."

"Oh, I suspect they are obliged to go to economise. You know she dresses her children so extravagantly. I saw Mary Newton at the theatre (she is not older than my Grace) with a diamond earring."

"Diamond, was it? Julia told me it was an aqua marine. The extravagance of some people is shocking! I don't wonder the men are out of patience. Don't tell it again, because Ned Miller told me in confidence. He actually has looked up all his wife's pocket handkerchiefs. Well, whatever else my husband complains of, he can't find fault with my extravagance."

Perhaps not; but faults far more heinous than this extravagance this poor woman had to account—the pernicious words for which we must be brought into judgment.

I hope it may appear incredible to you, my young friends, that woman, half way through this short life, with the knowledge of their immortal destiny, with a world without them and a world within to explore and make acquisitions with, with the delightful interest and solemn responsibilities of parents upon them, should so dishonestly waste their time, and poison social life. But be on your guard. If your minds are not employed on higher objects, and your hearts set on better things, you will talk idly about your friends and acquaintances.

The habit of gossiping begins in youth. I once attended a society of young persons, from thirteen to seventeen years of age, who met for benevolent purpose.

"Is this reading or talking afternoon?" asked one of the girls.

"Reading," replied the president; "and I have brought Percy's Reliques of English Poetry to read to you."

"Is not that light reading?" asked Julia Ivers.

"These are old ballads and songs."

"Yes, I suppose it would be called light reading."

"Then I vote against it; mother don't approve of light reading."

Julia who had the lightest of all minds, and the most valuable of tongues, preferred talking to any reading, and without loss of time she began to a knot of girls, who too much resembled her.

"Did you notice Matilda Smith last Sunday?"

"Yes, indeed; she had on a new silk dress."

"That is the very thing I wanted to find out, whether you were taken in with it. It was no better than her old sky-blue dyed."

"Can that be? why, she has worn it ever since she was thirteen. I wonder I did not see the prints of the tacks."

"I did," interposed another of the young committee of investigation. "I took a good look at it as she stood in the door. She couldn't deceive me with aunt Sally's wedding sky-blue dyed black."

"I don't think Matilda would care whether you were deceived or not," said little Mary Morris, the youngest member of the society, coloring up to her eyes.

"Oh! I forgot, Mary," said Julia Ivers, "that Matilda was your cousin."

"It is not because she is my cousin," replied Mary.

"Well, what is it then?"

Mary's tears dropped on her work, but she made no other reply. She had too much delicacy to proclaim her cousin's private good deeds; and she did not tell how Matilda, having had a small sum of money, which was to be used to her kind aunt Sally, who was sinking under a long indisposition, which her physician said "might be removed by a journey. It was—and we believe Matilda little cared how much these girls gossiped about her dyed black."

Julia Ivers, turned the conversation by saying, "Don't you think it strange that Mrs. Sandford lets Maria ride out with Walter Islet?"

"Yes, indeed; and, what is worse yet, accept presents from him."

"Why I do see," exclaimed Julia, staring open her eyes, and taken quite aback by another person knowing a bit of gossip which had not yet reached her ears.

the young gossips were interrupted by a proposition by the president, that the name of the society should be changed; "for," as she said, "the little charities they did with their needles were a poor offset against the uncharitableness of their tongues."

There is a species of gossiping aggravated by treachery; but, bad as this is, it is some times committed more from thoughtlessness than malice. A girl is invited to pass a day, a week, or a month, it may be, in a family. Admitted to such an intimacy, she may see & hear much that the family would not wish to have reported. Circumstances often occur, and remarks are made, from which no harm would come if they were published to the world, provided what went before and came after could likewise be known; but, taken out of their connection, they make a false impression. It is by relating disjointed circumstances, and repeating fragments of conversations, that so much mischief is done by those admitted into the bosom of a family.

You know that, with the Arabs, partaking salt is a pledge of fidelity, because the salt is a symbol of hospitality. Show a sacred gratitude for hospitality by never making any disparaging remarks of idle communications about those into whose families you are received. I know persons who will say, unblushingly, "I am sure that Mr. So and So is not kind to his wife. I saw enough to convince me of it when I stayed there."

"Mrs. S. is very mean in her family."

"How do you know that?"

"I am sure I ought to know, for I stayed a month in her house."

"If you wish to be convinced that Mrs. L. has no government over her children, go and stay there a week a I did."

"The B.'s and their step-mother try to live happily together; but if you were in the family as much as I am, you would see there is no love lost between them."

Now you perceive, my young friends, that the very reason which should have sealed this gossip's lips, she adduces as the ground of your faith in her evil report.

I have dwelt long on this topic of gossiping, my young friends, because, as I said before, believe it to be a prevailing fault in our young and social country. The only sure mode of exterminating it is by the cultivation of your minds and the purification of your hearts.

All kinds and degrees of gossiping are as distasteful to an elevated character as gross and unwholesome food is to a well-trained appetite.

A MONTHLY BEAR STORY.—The following fact was given us, on the best authority, as related by an old Vermont farmer, who, for many years past, has been monarch of an extensive farm, situated among the glens of the Green Mountains. Here is the original from his own mouth:—

"I'd noticed for a long time, that something or other had played the old Harry in my corn-field, destroying more corn than my family could make up with the whole year. Well, I laid it to the 'cousins for a while—but I soon came to the conclusion that all this ruin in God's creation couldn't eat up and break down so much corn, as was every day the case. So I entered all the damages on my account book, being determined to have a settlement with the scamp, or scamps, as soon as possible. One night in the early part of winter, a light snow fell; and in the morning I saw a little the biggest bear tracks, round my barn that ever you did see—some were bigger than the top of my hat, and some were smaller—looked like young ones. I followed the swindlers a good ways up the mountains several mornings, and found that they passed between two rocks right under a high ledge. Now, thinks I to myself, I'll have one on ye before long, as sure as my name is Dan Goodrich. So I borrowed of one of my neighbors a Joe-fred big steel trap, and set it exactly between them two rocks. Going out to fodder the cattle the next day, I discovered that fresh tracks had been made from my barn yard up to the mountain. I cut off, full split, to see what the big trap had got for breakfast—never once suspecting that the old bear would be such a fool as to get caught—but expected to find nothing more than a cub, at most. I crept along towards the top of the ledge, hoping to draw a smashing prize; but, as I said before, I couldn't, for the life of me, suppose that it would be my luck to catch a black monster of 800 pounds weight. Well, I ventured to take a peep over the rocks, and would you believe it, instead of catching a little shy cub I beheld, to my everlasting astonishment the trap with—nothing at all in it."

A country youth, the son of a prosperous farmer, had spent some time at an academy, fitting for college, and during one of the vacations which he had spent at home, he was one day in a brick yard where his industrious father, with hired men were making brick. The father, desirous of knowing something of his son's progress in learning, asked him what was Latin for brick? "Brickabus," replied the candidate for literary honors. "Very well," observed the father, "now tell us the Latin for coal." "Contabus," was the reply. "Very like—very like," said the father, who, though not skilled in Latin, was not lacking in good sense and shrewdness—"and now the Latin for frock—eh?" "Frockabus," was the answer. "Ay, ay," said the old gentleman, "now you go home, take off your contabus, put on your frockabus, and go to making brickabus, for you don't go to the academy at my expense any longer, I can tell you."

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE.

THE subscriber, hold a mortgage deed, given by Joseph B. Morton to Samuel J. Durall, and assigned by said Durall to me, of a certain tract or parcel of land situated in Paris, county of Oxford, bounded as follows, viz: beginning on the westerly side of the road leading from Stowell's Mills, an easterly line to the south easterly corner of land formerly owned by Cyran Hall, thence northerly on the line of the land formerly owned by said Hall, twenty rods to a stake and stone, thence easterly by land owned by Eliza Stowell, eight rods to a stake and stone, thence southerly by said land formerly owned by said Stowell, twenty rods to the road aforesaid; thence on said road to the first mentioned corner, containing one acre. The condition of said mortgage deed having been broken by said Morton, by reason thereof, I claim to foreclose said Mortgage, and

Paris, Jan 25, 1840.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine, in Legislature assembled at the City of Augusta, on the first Wednesday of January, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty.

THE undersigned, proprietors and owners of the Congressional Meeting House in the town of Norway, respectfully represent that said Meeting House is now in a state of decay, and in need of repair, and that the said proprietors are desirous to sell the same for the purpose of erecting a new one in its place.

They therefore pray your honorable body that they may be duly and legally authorized to make sale of the same, and divide the proceeds among said proprietors and owners, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed) JACOB BRADBURY & 41 others.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE.

JANUARY 17, 1840.

On the Petition aforesaid, Ordered, That the Petition be read, and the petitioners be heard thereon, with a weekly paper printed in Paris, two weeks successively, the last publication to be ten days at least, before the third Wednesday of February first, that all persons interested, may then appear and show cause, if not be granted.

Read and accepted.

Sent down for concurrence.

WILLIAM TRAFTON, Secretary.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 18, 1840.

Read and concurred.

ELBRIDGE GERRY, Clerk.

A true copy—Attest:

WILLIAM TRAFTON, Secretary of the Senate.

At a Court of Probate held at Fryburg within and for the County of Oxford on the twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty.

On the petition of DANIEL BRANT, Administrator of the estate of ELIZABETH WALKER, late of said county, deceased, representing that the personal estate of said deceased, is not sufficient to pay the just debts, which he used at the time of his death, by the sum of two hundred and seventy one dollars, and eight right cents, and praying for a license to sell and convey as much of the real estate of said deceased, as may be necessary, for the payment of said debts and incidental charges.

That the petitioner give notice thereof to the heirs of said deceased, and to all persons interested in said estate, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in a Protestant Church printed in Paris, in said county, on the third day of March, next at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

3m24 Copy Attest: LYMAN RAWSON, Judge.

Copy Attest: LEO S. SMITH, Register.

J. T. CLARK,

SADDLE, HARNESS, AND TRUNK MAKER,

HAS taken the stand formerly occupied by N. M. Almon, and every one who will be found a good as for Cash or Country Produce.

600 bushels of OATS wanted in exchange for the above, for which the highest price will be paid.

Paris, Dec. 10, 1839.

ANDREW THOMPSON,

TAILOR,

RESPECTFULLY informs the inhabitants of Paris and vicinity that he has taken a Shop near Messrs. Crocker & Shaw's Store, on Paris-Hill, where all business in his line will be promptly and faithfully attended to. He respectfully solicits a share of public patronage. Cutting done at short notice.

Paris, August, 1839.

Commissioner's Notice.

WE the undersigned, having been appointed by the Judge of Probate within and for the County of Oxford Commissioners on the estate of JEREMIAH L. HAWKS, late of said county, in said county, do hereby give notice that six months from the seventh day of January, are allowed to said creditors to file their claims; and that we will attend to said claims on the first Saturday in March, the first Saturday in May, the second Saturday in July, from ten o'clock A. M. to five o'clock P. M. on each of said days.

ISAAC STANLEY, HUMPHREY M. EATON, } Com'rs.

Dixfield Jan. 9th 1840.

Executor's Sale.

PURSUANT to license from the Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, will be sold at public Auction, on Saturday, the 15th day of February, at one o'clock in the afternoon, on the premises, all the real estate of JOSEPH SMITH, late of Hebron, deceased, that has not been previously sold.

PEREZ T. RECKARD, Executor.

Paris, Jan 7th. 1840.

FREEDOM.

THIS may certify to all who it may concern, that I have this day given to James WILKIN, his time to trade for himself; and I shall claim none of his wages, nor shall I pay any of the debts of his contracting, after this date.

Attest: JAMES EDWARDS, BENJ. WILBUR.

Poland, Jan 4, 1840.

NOTICE.

PUBLIC notice is hereby given that the Post Office at South Paris will be open all business days from 7 o'clock A. M. and from 1 till 7 o'clock P. M. until further arrangement.

DAVID JORDAN, P. M.

By OTIS H. PAINE, Asst. P. M.

South Paris, Sept 13, 1839.

Administrator's Sale.

PURSUANT to license obtained from the Court of Probate for the County of Oxford I shall sell at Public Auction, on the premises, all the real Estate of James Knox, late of Peru, in the County of Oxford, deceased, for the purpose of paying the debts of said deceased, on the third Tuesday of February next, at ten o'clock A. M. Said real estate consists of the homestead Farm of 15, in the 25th Range—subject to the Widow Right of Dower therein. Terms of sale liberal and made known at the time of sale.

MANASSEH LAWRENCE, Adm'r.

Peru Jan. 7, 1840.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

PAIN cannot exist but from *Corrupt Particles* being acted in the identical part where the pain is experienced. These corrupt particles when in great volume (quantity) are the *Positive cause of death*.

It is a solemn truth that corruption terminates the existence of all created beings; the importance of its speedy removal from the body, when by any causes it has accumulated, is therefore self evident; not only *Health*, but existence, being absolutely endangered by its existence.

Let us then acknowledge that the only sure means of preventing and curing disease, is the speedy removal of *Corrupt Humors* from the body. *Disease* being only another name for *Corruption*, and *Corruption* of *Corrupt Humors* being identified in all cases as the *Positive cause of death*.

Purgative Medicine, when resorted to in season, that it will certainly remove corruption; thus the blood is purified, thus chronic diseases and premature death are prevented; thus those whose lives are in the utmost consequence to their country, and families, are often saved.

The importance of this discovery of curing diseases after they will do justice: Dr. Benjamin Brandreth will not then be styled a "good" pretender. But that will neither please nor offend him; in the rectitude of his own conscience, in the spirit of his own conscience, is his reward. And he does not pledge that his medicine will be always equal to what it ever has been; and that no expense shall be spared in its manufacture—and the making of it he attends to personally.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS are universally used in every section of this wide extended country where they are made known. Upwards of fourteen thousand cases of cure have been effected, upwards of fifteen hundred cases of cure have been effected since the introduction of them into the United States, establishing the fact beyond all doubt that the Brandreth Pills cure the (apparently) most opposite diseases for the one simple act of continually evacuating the bowels with them, until the disease goes away; therefore, whatever may be the nature of the disease, the utility of the practice is now beyond all doubt.

Dr. B. allows that the curative effect depends on the *Purgative Qualities* of the Brandreth Pills; a experience and a course of experiment for upwards of forty years have made the most judiciously balanced purgative known. Therefore, however long it may be necessary to persevere with them to the removal of any disease, no other than good can possibly result from their use; they are perfectly innocent.

The healthy as well as those suffering from disease should use them—the former keep their blood pure and vigorous, and the latter to remove all noxious accumulations which weaken the system. The only cure that is required is to procure the genuine Brandreth Pills, and you cannot fail to procure the genuine if you take the following advice:

How to be secure from Counterfeits.

Never purchase Brandreth's Pills without being positively sure that the person selling has an *Engraved certificate* of *Authenticity*, and observe it has been recently issued. No Certificate being any guarantee after twelve months from date that Pills sold by the holder are genuine.

All Pills having Wm. Brandreth on the label, and George Hedgesmith on the edge, are counterfeits, and to deceive the Public, and evade the law in the same time.

These, and indeed, all counterfeits of the Pills, are calculated to the directions which accompany my Pills, are calculated to destroy LIFE. They are made by men having no standard of respectability. Without limitation or name—perfectly careless of consequences, producing disease, and death.

[Extract from Dr. B.'s Address to citizens of the U. S.]

And be careful to remember that I have never authorized persons to sell my Pills. These counterfeits are made by men who are made agents, have each of them a *COPPEL* PLATE certificate of agency, signed in writing with a pen by me; and which certificate requires renewal every twelve months, and being no guarantee for more than one year from date—observe the date is not WRITING, it is ENGRAVED.

R. L. BRANDRETH, M. D.

241 Broadway, New York.

Dr. B. Brandreth, has at very great expense, established the following offices for the exclusive sale of his Vegetable Universal Pills, which he begs to be understood that he also has equal to what they have been, and that no expense shall be spared in their manufacture.

New York, (Hempstead) 241 Broadway.

Philadelphia—8 North Eighth Street.

Buffalo—35 State Street.

Do not—19 Hanover Street.

Albany—Corner of Green and Hudson Streets.

Pittsburg, Pa.—154 West Street.

Cincinnati—119 Main Street.

Louisville—39 Fifth Street.

St. Louis, Mo.—26 1/2 Market Street.

New Orleans—3 Old Levee.

Charleston, S. C.—70 Meeting Street.

Montreal—63 Notre Dame.

Sub Agents in Maine will be found to receive their supplies from the New England Office.

19 HANOVER STREET.

THE ONLY OFFICE IN BOSTON FOR DR. BRANDRETH'S VEGETABLE UNIVERSAL PILLS.

Or of MR JOHN O. LANGLEY,

Who is DR. BRANDRETH'S duly authorized Travelling Agent for the State of Maine.

The following are the ONLY Agents in Oxford County, Maine, who sell the Genuine Pills. Buy of them and avoid deception.

Paris—CROCKER & SHAW.

So. Paris—A. Hall, Jr.

Bufffield—F. C. Cook.

Rumford—O. C. Foster.

Disfield—A